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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 14 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of 13 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the underground testing of three nuclear devices at the Pokaran test site in India.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 64 and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement of 13 May 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan is authorized to state that the news of the conduct on 11 May 1998 of underground testing of three nuclear devices at the Pokaran test site in India was received in Kazakhstan with deep concern. This action jeopardizes the progress in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons achieved since the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

India's conduct of nuclear tests will lead to an escalation of tension in the region. Kazakhstan remains of the view that the conditions put forward by India for its accession to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty should be discussed exclusively through negotiations with a view to arriving at mutually acceptable decisions on the existing problems in the field of nuclear disarmament.

The Republic of Kazakhstan calls on India to renounce the nuclear option and reaffirm to achieve a safe and stable world, global partnership and economic development.